

MASSIVE BASE FOR THE STATUE.

THE PEDESTAL FOR BARTHOLDI'S LIBERTY ENLIGHTENING THE WORLD.

The foundation mass which is to support the pedestal on which Bartholdi's statue of Liberty will be placed, was finished on Saturday. It consists of a step pyramid—the steps 3 feet high, with a recess of 9 inches—truncated, with a base 91 feet square, a top surface 67 feet square, and a height of 52 feet 10 inches. It is composed of one solid stone, or mass of béton, and is said to be the largest solid mass of concrete above ground in the world. It is expected that the first course of granite will be laid by July, and the work will be rapidly pushed as long as the money holds out. If a sufficient sum is forthcoming, Oct. 1, it is expected, will see the pedestal finished. The pedestal proper will be 117 feet high. Above this will rise the statue 157 feet, giving a total height above low-water mark of 380 feet.

Several members of the Pedestal Committee visited Bedloe's Island yesterday to look at the finished work. The party included Gen. Charles P. Stone, engineer in charge; Parke Godwin, Henry F. Spaulding, Richard Butler, Mahlon Chance, of Ohio, who has been visiting the West in the interest of the fund, and Capt. J. Chance, Seventeenth Infantry. The foundation mass rises from the centre of the old fort 22 feet above its walls. Below the parade level the concrete extends about 15 feet. Two arched passageways extend through the foundation mass at the ground level, each 10 feet in height, and with a 10-foot span. They meet at the centre, making a 10-foot shaft, which is continued to the top. The same shaft will be extended through the pedestal to the statue, and in it will be placed an elevator. The weight of this foundation mass is 24,000 tons. There will be a pressure at the bottom of the mass, when the statue is in place, of five tons to the square foot, and on the top a pressure of about three and eight-tenths tons. To guard against defective concrete entering into the construction, cubical blocks of every foot of béton laid were put by, numbered, and dated. Some have been crushed to find their testing strength; others are put by to note the difference as the hardening process goes on. The tests have all been satisfactory, going as high as 120 tons to the foot. Small bricquettes have also been preserved for determining the tensile strength of this great mass of concrete. There are, in round numbers, about 12,000 yards of solid stone in the pyramid. The béton may well be called stone, for it weighs 155 pounds to the cubic foot, within 5 pounds as heavy as granite. From the top of the pyramid a series of arches—also of béton—will be sprung to the walls of the fort, making an inclosed chamber 500 feet around, 35 feet high, and 35 feet wide. The arches will be covered with a foot or two of earth, and when sodded will make an artistic touch of green between the dark red retaining walls of the old fort and the granite of the pedestal. These arches will, of course, shut from outside view this foundation mass which has been so long in building.

"We have money enough to make a good commencement on the pedestal," said Gen. Stone, "and the work will be pushed as long as we have money. An agreement has been entered into on the part of D. J. King, Jr., to do all the construction of the pedestal. The granite is being quarried at Leete's Island quarries, Connecticut."

Mr. Spaulding, Treasurer of the committee, when asked how much money was in the treasury, said: "We need \$100,000 more than we have to finish the pedestal. The foundation mass cost about \$80,000."

From the top of the mammoth stone a beautiful view is had. The party yesterday climbed laboriously up the steps, and, holding with both hands to their hats, leaned windward and looked around. There is an unobstructed view of the entire surroundings of New-York Harbor. Through the Narrows and beyond Sandy Hook, up the East and North Rivers, and over Brooklyn, New-York, Jersey City—away to the Pennsylvania mountains. "If people out West could see this," said Mr. Chance; "not alone this view, but this great foundation, they would contribute to our fund. I have been through Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, Colorado, Missouri, Kansas, Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming, and in every principal city have organized committees to carry on the work of swelling the fund. A few contributions have come in—not very large ones. But everywhere I was assured that we should have help."